

Regional nonprofits receive sizeable monetary boost

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More than 225 nonprofit organizations received \$162,650 from Los Alamos National Security (LANS), LLC, which manages Los Alamos National Laboratory. The LANS contributions are determined by the number of volunteer hours logged by Laboratory employees and retirees. “The genuine care and commitment Laboratory employees and retirees have for their communities are clearly demonstrated by the number of hours volunteered to these nonprofit organizations,” said Kathy Keith, director of Los Alamos’ Community Programs Office, which oversees the volunteer program. In 2014, Laboratory employees and retirees logged 282,268 hours of volunteer service. Since 2007, Los Alamos employees and retirees reported more than 1.8 million volunteer hours.

Retired? Well, maybe

Roy Hopwood began to work for the Laboratory in 1949 fresh out of high school, and today spends most of his retirement days volunteering for a number of northern New Mexico organizations and institutions, including the Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park in Angel Fire. Last year, the 84-year-old Hopwood logged in an outstanding 1,208 volunteer hours.

"I've been volunteering since the 1950s, because I love helping people," Hopwood said. "I'm in good health and have plenty of time and energy for making a difference."

Volunteering for the Vietnam memorial is particularly important for Hopwood, a Korean War veteran, because he feels that the veterans of the Vietnam War did not always receive the honor they deserved as a result of that war's widespread unpopularity at the time.

"A lot of New Mexicans served in Vietnam," Hopwood noted. "The very first soldier who fell in Vietnam, Turk Griffith, was from New Mexico and so was David Westphall, for whom the memorial initially was built. The war's unpopularity was not the service people's fault."

The Vietnam memorial is 87 miles from Hopwood's home, door to door, but he does not let that stop him. Nor is he picky about what he does.

"I'll do anything from landscaping to emptying the garbage," Hopwood explained. "I consider it a privilege and a pleasure to be of use."

For additional information, visit the Laboratory's [Giving](#) and [Volunteer Program](#) websites. You also might enjoy learning more about the [Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park](#) and [David Westphall Veterans Foundation](#).

Community Connections features news and opportunities that grow out of the Laboratory's Good Neighbor Pledge: "To partner with our neighbors on strengthening math and science learning, diversifying the economy and expanding community giving in northern New Mexico."

Los Alamos National Laboratory

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